

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

CONFESSION.....

P: We confess our sins to our gracious God:

C: Lord, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, the child born in Bethlehem, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

P: Our almighty God, in his mercy, sent his Son into our world, born a baby in Bethlehem, destined to die on the cross for us, and for his sake has forgiven us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 39 Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing,

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy,

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, Far as the curse is found,

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, And wonders of his love,

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Gracious Lord God, something in us knows that all the religious rituals and all our pious efforts to do good works in the world could never put us right with you.....

C: Only your gracious love can justify us; only your will and desire to save us from ourselves can actually free us to be your people. We gratefully celebrate your coming among us, to wear our skin and walk in our shoes, and finally to go to the cross, so that the world would clearly see, how great is your love,

P: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

God asks David to build a permanent house for Him to dwell

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

[New Testament Lesson: Romans 16: 25-27](#)

What was once a mystery is made known in the gift of Jesus

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

[CHORAL OFFERING](#)

[An Advent Alleluia](#)

[By Dana Mengel](#)

[Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38](#)

Gabriel's special message to Mary.....and the world

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

[CHILDREN'S MESSAGE](#)

[SERMON SONG "Green Book" 40](#)

[What Child is This](#)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding!
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh: Come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

**We believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus,
Almighty Creator of heaven and earth,
The all powerful and all loving God.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ,
The child of Bethlehem,
God of God from all eternity,
Born in the flesh at Christmastime,
Born to be our Savior,
Born to suffer and die for our sins,
Born to be raised to conquer death,
And give us hope of eternal life.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The presence of God among us now,
The power of Christ within us,
Which makes us holy, renews our hearts,
And strengthens us in faith.**

**Binding together all God's people
In bonds of faith and hope and love,
As we together keep the vigil
And reflect upon the mystery
Of God's birth on earth
This holy season.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

OFFERING ARE GATHERED

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lived offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son born in human flesh and offered for our salvation.

OFFERING SONG "Green Book" 47 vs. 1 and 7 only Let All Together Praise Our God

Let all together praise our God
Before his glorious throne;
Today he opens heav'n again
To give us his own Son,
To give us his own son.

Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore,
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise you evermore.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Green Book” 126 Let us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us bow ‘round the altar on our knees;
Let us bow ‘round the altar on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

“Red Book” 225 I Love You, Lord
I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice,
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear;
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

CLOSING BLESSING SONG (sung to tune of “O Little Town”)

**C: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in us increase;
Lift up his face with shining grace
And grant eternal peace.
To Father, Son and Spirit,
Eternal one in three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days,
And to eternity!**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POST-SERVICE MUSIC